ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

FIFTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

GENEVA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Holmes Co., Florida,

October 24, 25 and 26, 1891.

OFFICERS.

REV. W. A. CUMBIE, Moderator.....Wicksburg, Ala.
A. B. JERNIGAN, Clerk.....Dundee, "
M. H. SELLERS, Treasurer.....Geneva, "

Next session will be held with New Hope Baptist Church, Holmes County, Fla., on Saturday before the fourth Sunday in October, 1892.

MONTGOMERY, ALA.:
THE ALABAMA PRINTING COMPANY.
1891.

MINUTES.

SATURDAY, OCT. 24th, 1891.

The Geneva Baptist Association met this day at Pleasant Grove Baptist church, Holmes County, Fla., at 11 a. m. After singing some song of praises the introductory sermon was preached by Rev. William A. Cumbie.

The delegates were requested to meet in the house at 2.30 p. m., for business.

Announcement was made that diner had been provided on the ground for all, and every one was cordially invited to partake.

SATURDAY.

2:30 p. m.: The body was called to order by the clerk, Bro. A. B. Jernigan.

Upon a motion by the clerk, Bro. J. F. Register was called to the chair as temporary chairman.

After singing the body was led in prayer by Bro. Joseph Hinson.

Letters were called for from the several churches, and were read by Bros. William A. Cumbie and M. H. Sellers.

The following churches and their members were enrolled:

Adoniram—W. C. Adams, W. E. Whiden.
Elbethel—A. J. Austin, —— Murdock.
Friendship—J. F. Register, J. Hinson, Thos. Capps.
Geneva—M. H. Sellers, J. B. Albritton.
Limestone—G. J. Scott, F. M. Alford.
New Hope—H. J. Owens, J. M. Renfroe, B. H. Scott.
New Home—S. A. Cotton. J. W. Barker.
New Prospect—T. E. Carroll, W. Tindal.
New Teman—J. S. Pumphrey, J. W. Grant.
Pleasaut Hill—James Blount, J. S. McCormick, A. J. McCormick.
Pilgrim's Rest—William A. Cumbie, M. M. Dean.
Pleasant Grove—W. H. Grubbs, J. W. Price.
Sandy Creek—(Not represented.)
Shiloh—A. B. Jernigan, W. T. Anderson.
Spring Creek—M. A. Crutchfield, J. E. Burch.

Upon motion the Moderator was elected by nomination and tellers; results: Eld. William A. Cumbie, Moderator; upon motiod by Bro. J. S. McCormick that Bros. A. B. Jernigan and M. H. Sellers be re-elected by acclamation for clerk and treasurer. Carried.

After a few remarks by the Moderator he announced that the body was ready for business.

Call for petitionary letters, the following church sent up delegates: Hew Home, S. A. Cotton, J. W Barker. After reception of the letter, the Moderator extended the hand of welcome to the delegates.

Appointment of committee on divine service, as follows: Bros. James Blount, M. M. Dean, J. W. Grant, with the delegates of Pleasant Grove church.

Call for correspondence received Bro. G. J. Canant from the Newton Association.

Upon motion of Bro. A. J. McCormick that the call of return correspondence be dispensed with, as we deem it unnecessary, and recommend any brother as correspondent from this Association to any sister association who may chance to go.

Call for agents for missionary or any other bevolence, there was no agents present, but several copies of the Mission Quarterlies were sent in and distributed.

Upon motion by Bro. J. F. Register a special committee be appointed to draw up a memorial tribute upon the death of our beloved Bro. J. C. Coleman.

Upon motion by Bro. A. B. Jernigan that Bro. J. F. Register be appointed as Chairman, as it was probable that he knew more of the deceased brother's past history.

Upon motion that Bro. Register be allowed to appoint the other committee if necessary.

The following committees were appointed:

On Finance—James Blount, W. C. Adams, M. M. Dean.
On Sabbath-school—J. S. McCormick, J. Hinson.
On Documents—A. J. McCormick. J. S. Pumphery.
On Bible Distribution—J. F. Register, M. A. Crutchfield, A. J. Austin, J. E. Burch.
On Periodicals—H. J. Owens, J. W. Grant, F. M. Alford.
On Missions—J. B. Albritton, W. T. Anderson, T. E. Carroll.
On Temperance—W. H. Grubbs. W. Tindall, S. A. Cotton.
On Nomination—J. W. Price, J. W. Grant.
On. Education—Thos. Capps, M. H. Sellers. J. W. Barker.
On Deceased Ministers—J. M. Renfroe, J. F. Register.

Call for report of committee on Divine Service as follows:

Bro. J. F. Register to preach to-night, and Bro. G. J. Canant closes.
JAMES BLOUNT, Chairman.

Upon motion the body adjourned till 8:30 o'clock Monday morning.

SUNDAY SERVICE.

At 11 a. m. devotional service was conducted by Elder W. Allen Cumbie, of Ponce DeLeon Fla. Text, Matt. 3:1-2. Bro. Cumbie is a very able man, and gained very close attention of the audience by giving the outlines of Christ's Kingdom (the church) and her "title."

At 3 p. m. the service was also conducted by Bro. Cumbie. Text, Romans 8:18. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

MONDAY.

8:30 a. m. The body was called to order by the Moderator.

After singing, and prayer by Bro. A. B. Riddle, regular order of business was resumed.

Call for correspondence renewed.

Received Bro. W. Allen Cumbie from the Graves Association, West Florida.

REPORT ON SABBATH-SCHOOLS.

Your committee on Sabbath schools beg leave to make the following report: We find that the interest of Sabbath-schools is increasing some, but not to the extent it should. We find only a few Sabbath-schools reported by our churches. There is a cause for there not being a Sabbath-school organized in every church in this association, and we are fearful that the brethren of the different churches are not doing their duty in this direction, as we have many children growing up in our midst that need the Word of God taught them.

Brethren, if we are God's children let us be about our Father's business. Let us prove our faith by our works; let our light so shine that others seeing our good works may be constrained to glorify our Father which is in heaven. It is only by a united effort of the church that a Sabbath-school can be successfully carried on. Then let us by the help of God discharge our duty in the Sabbath-school cause, that at least it may be said, well done, thou good and faithful servant, come up higher; enter thou into thy joys.

Respectfully submitted,

J. S. McCormick,
Jos. Hinson,
Committee.

REPORT ON DOCUMENTS.

We, your committee, submit the following: We have had all the papers submitted to us under consideration. We find that Friendship and New Hope churches have each asked that you hold your next session with them. With respect to the claims of Friendship church, we ask that the next session of this association be held with New Hope church.

Respectfully submitted,

A. J. McCormick,
J. S. Pumphrey,
Committee.

REPORT ON BIBLE DISTRIBUTION.

Your committee on Bible distribution report as follows: We recommend that the distribution of God's Word be placed in charge of the missionary employed by the mission committee appointed by this association and that ten dollars of the amount received for the mission cause in this association be expended for Bibles and Testaments, which is to be carried by the missionary to be sold to people at actual cost, except when he, from his judgment, thinks a family too poor to buy, he should then be instructed to give to such families, and to make report to the association of how many sold and how many books given away. Such report, with the money received

for sale of books, should be made apart from his report as a missionary, and be considered a report on colportage work.

Respectfully submitted,

J. F. Register,
M. A. Crutchfield,
A. J. Austin,
J. E. Burch,
Committee.

Note—This above report was formerly on Bible cause, and as the report heretofore has been merely recommending the Bible, we deem it necessary to change the subject to the best plan of distributing Bibles or general colportage work, in order that reports on said cause might be more interesting or advantageous to the association.

REPORT ON PERIODICALS.

Your committee report the following:

Good literature in this age is a necessity. It is a necessity in the sense that the people must have something to read. Literature being used as one of the means that God recognizes and blesses, to disseminate knowledge. When we consider religious literature we see that it excels in importance. As Baptists, we should patronize our denominational periodicals We should endeavor to disseminate the truth as it is in Jesus. We have in Alabama our State paper, The Alabama Baptist, than which no paper is more ably edited; its doctrines are sound; its price reasonable; its editors are Christian gentlemen. Let us read it, brethren, and place it at the hands of our children. As the State paper of Florida, we have the Baptist Witness, published at Ocala, Fla, which should be in every family.

Respectfully submitted,

H. J. Owens,
J. W. Grant,
F. M. Alford,
Committee.

The subject of Religious Literature was discussed by Bros. J. F. Register, W. Allen Cumbie and William A. Cumbie, giving words of warning to what kind of literature we read.

REPORT ON MISSIONS.

The great "Author of our salvation was the grandest missionary that this world has ever known or could ever know. He came to this earth to seek and to save that which was lost, and to establish His kingdom. To prove the genuineness of his mission and accomplish the end whereunto he was sent, He suffered upon the cross that we might be saved. Having brought salvation to a dying world, and opened up a way whereby we might glorify the Father, who sent Him, He commissioned his disciples, saying, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" The whole tenor of the scripture conveys the idea of mission, and we can be obedient children only by doing whatsoever He commanded us to do. The spirit of Him who said, "Suffer it to be so now, for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness," is pleading with us to-day to go out into the highways and hedges, into the worst places, and even to the utmost parts of the earth, and carry this gospel to every living being, teaching them the way of salvation. Then let us not quench that spirit, but rather, let us be up and doing for the Master's cause. Awake! O, thou that sleepest; arise and spread the glad tidings of great joy.

We could in no wise be called the true followers of the meek and lowly Savior, if we did not undergo some sacrifice, endure some affliction, or bear some toils.

Brethren, we are not doing our duty in this direction, while so many of God's creatures around us are lost in darkness. We cannot be Missionary Baptists unless we practice what we preach; then let us heed the Master's calling. We find that there is a strong necessity for missionary work within the bounds of this association.

There are numbers of localities here that are destitute of the preached word of God, where much good might be accomplished with a proper effort. We suggest that the churches composing this association raise a fund sufficiently large to support a local missionary for at least three months during the ensuing associational year, or in the event that it cannot be done, suggest that whatever amount raised be expended in that direction. We also recommend the apportionment of a Mission committee, to be composed of three members of this association, whose duty it shall be to take this matter in charge, collect the funds, employ a missionary and put him in the field wherever they think proper.

Respectfully submitted,

J. B. ALBRITTON,
W. T. ANDERSON,
T. E. CARROLL,
Committee.

A resolution was offered by Brother A. B. Jernigan for this association to raise $100 for the State board, to be divided as follows: $50 for State Mission Board, $17 for Home Mission, and $33 for Foreign Missions. After some lively discussion, a motion by Brother A. J. McCormick, to table the resolution, was carried.

Upon motion, a committee was appointed as an Associational Mission Board, as follows: J. B. Albritton, R. Mills and T. W. Capps; first named, Chairman; last named, Secretary, of said committee.

Upon motion, the following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That the Mission committee appointed, take the matter of placing a home missionary in the field, in hand, be and is hereby empowered to adopt a plan of mission for this association.

Resolved, 2nd, That this association now take a collection for this missionary effort.

Resolved, 3rd, That this association ask the different churches composing the same, for $150, to be expended for our home mission work.

Resolved, 4th, That a standing committee on colportage be appointed to work under the authority of the Mission Board.

Resolved, 5th, That the delegates from the different churches composing this association, be and are hereby instructed to notify those churches when they go home, of the missionary steps taken here to-day, and take up collections or pledges, the same to be paid when called for by the committee; also that they notify the chairman of said committee of the amount thus raised.

J. B. ALBRITTON.

REPORT ON EDUCATION.

We, your committee on Education, submit the following:

Illiteracy is fleeing as a result of the desire of the parents of this land that their children should receive benefit of common school education. We see this desire manifested by the construction of numerous and comfortable school houses. It has not been many years since the one three months' school for each township was but poorly supported. Now we see a very good school in almost every community; some of them maintain for four or six months of the year. Again, parents who are so much interested as to the future character of their children, are selecting better teachers than formerly The State recognizing the importance of the proper qualifications on the part of the teachers, who to a great extent mould the character of the pupils, demands that they be men or women of good moral character. Ought we not to demand that our teachers be pious as well as thoroughly familiar with the text book? Remember, parents, that the teacher is a model. Keep the schools improving, for children love knowledge, and where the children have been well instructed in the common branches, the foundation is laid for that higher education which every

individual may pursue and obtain for himself. We deem it necessary to present the claims of the colleges and high schools, as there are a few of us able to patronize them. What we want is good schools at home and taught more months in the year.

Respectfully submitted,

T. W. Capps,
M. H. Sellers,
J. W. Barker,
Committee.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

Your committee on temperance submit the following:

We are happy to say that the evil of intemperance is decreasing in our bounds. Geneva is a dry town, and the effect is a happy one. We want it heralded that Beat No. 6, Geneva county, went dry without a dissenting vote. We are all aware that the legislative powers of our county has taken steps to put an end to the demoralizing intemperance of this our land.

Brethren, this is the backbone of our moral protection; let us be thankful and lend a helping hand to this great work, and roll the wheel on to victory.

Respectfully submitted,

W. H. Grubbs,
W. Tindall,
S. A. Cotton,
Committee.

REPORT ON NOMINATIONS.

Your committee on Nominations submit the following:

Brother A. B. Riddle to preach the Introductory sermon, and Brother J. F. Register, alternate.

Executive Committee—James Blount, S. F. Latimer, Dan Gilchrist.

Respectfully submitted,

J. W. Price,
J. W. Grant,
Committee.

Upon motion that the Executive committee of this association be dispensed with and the committee on Mission Board act instead.

REPORT ON DECEASED MINISTERS.

Your committee on Deceased Ministers submit the following:

That God, in His mercy, has spared to us all of our ministers, save Brother J. C. Coleman, upon whose death a special committee has been appointed.

Respectfuliy submitted,

J. W. Renfroe,
J. F. Register,
Committee.

Upon motion, the memorial tribute of Rev. J. C. Coleman was read and unanimously adopted, not only by the association, but by all present, with much regret of a departed friend and brother:

To the Moderator and delegates composing the Fifteenth Annual Ssssion of the Geneva Baptist Association:

Your special committee appointed to prepare a tribute of respect to the memory of our deceased brother and worthy Moderator, J. C. Coleman, submit the following:

There is a kind of grief from which we would not, under any circumstances, divorce ourselves, such is grief for our deceased friends and brethren. If we could not cherish a hope of meeting them in the glorious be-

yond, then such grief would be unbearable, but we grieve not as those who have no hope.

When the present session of the Geneva Baptist Association was called to order by Brother A B. Jernigan, we, who had so often met on former occasions, looking over the room seeing so many familiar faces all aglow with health and vigor, interspersed with hoary heads, made so by reason of age, and continued service in the Master's kingdom, the joy experienced by meeting these old veterans, together with a goodly number of new recruits, full of vigor, coming in to fill the thinned ranks of the army of King Emanuel, was counterbalanced by the vacant seat, made so by the untimely death of our much loved brother and former Moderator, J. C. Coleman.

Brother Coleman was born in Barbour County, Alabama, on the 22nd day of August, 1853. He moved to this, Geneva (then Coffee) county, in the 16th year of his age. He joined the Baptist church at Elbethel, was baptized by Rev. J. W. Bullard; moved his membership from Elbethel to Spring Creek Baptist church. The church soon discovered in him such gifts as to induce them to call him from seclusion to the front. He was licensed to preach by Spring Creek church in 1877. He labored as a licentiate for four years, when he was called to ordination by the same church. The presbytery was composed of Bros. M. Osburn and J. E. Albritton. From then to his death, (which sad event occurred at East Lake, August 17, 1891, in the 37th year of his age), he continued to labor in the Master's cause, as an ordained minister. Your committee feel safe in saying that this is the first session of this association ever held without the presence of Brother Coleman. He was chosen Clerk of the association at the third annual session; was re-elected to that position until his service was needed in a higher position, that of Moderator, and to this responsible and honorable place he was annually re-elected until God, for purposes known to himself, called him from labor in the church millitant to refreshments in the church triumphant.

"May we cherish his memory,
Imitate his example,
And may our last be like his."

Brother Coleman was married to Miss Margerett C. Cronnin, of Barbour County, February 11th, 1878. This was a happy union, and they were blessed with six children, two of whom were called to the realms of eternal bliss while yet in infancy. The wife, four children, kind mother, with a large number of relatives and a host of friends, mourn their loss.

Brother Coleman not only enjoyed the confidence of his fellow citizens, which is evidenced by having been chosen to represent them in the last assembly of the Legislature of Alabama, which position he filled quite satisfactory to his constituents, and with honor to himself. At the time of Bro. Coleman's death he was in attendance at Howard College preparing himself for broader fields of usefulness, and this association had fondly cherished the hope that in the near future he would return, fully equipped to preach the unsearchable riches of the gospel of Christ, but alas for human hopes.

It has been the privilege of the writer to have been intimately acquainted with Brother Coleman from boyhood up to manhood; have been with him in all the walks of life; never knew anything in him unmanly; and since he professed religion, never knew anything unchristion.

Your committee ask that a copy of this tribute be sent to the family of our deceased brother, one to his mother, one to the President of Howard College, to be read to his class; one sent to The Alabama Baptist, and it spread on the minutes of this association.

Respectfully submitted,

J. F. Register, Ch'n.

IN MEMORY OF
REV. J. C. COLEMAN,
BORN AUGUST 22, 1853,
DIED AUGUST 17, 1891.

On motion by Brother A. J. McCormick, that the association withdraw from the State board, after some lively discussion to the contrary, the motion was withdrawn.

On motion that the time of meeting of this association be changed from Saturday to Friday, the question was voted upon—yeas, 7; nays 13.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

For minutes	$19 10
Associational purposes	9 25
Home Mission Board	29 15
Total	$57 50

We also find that the following amount has been sent to Bro. W. B. Crumpton, Secretary of State Board, during this associational year:

Geneva, for State Missions	$25 00
Friendship, for Foreign Missions	7 00
Total	$32 00

JAMES BLOUNT,
W. C. ADAMS,
M. M. DEAN,
Committee.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

DR.

To amount received from committee on Finance	$57 50

CR.

By amount paid for minutes	$14 15
to Clerk	14 20
Balance on hand	29 15
Total	$57 50

M. A. SELLERS, Treas.

On motion that the balance of the money on hand in the treasury be subject to order of the Home Mission Board to be expended for mission work, motion prevailed.

Resolved, That the thanks of this association be and are hereby tendered to the members of Pleasant Grove church and the community at large for the hospitable manner in which they entertained us, praying that God will continue to bless them in basket and in store.

J. F. REGISTER.

After singing, the delegates extended each other the parting hand. The association adjourned to meet with New Hope Baptist church, Florida, six miles below Geneva, on the west side of Choctawhatchee river, on Saturday before the fourth Sunday in October, 1892.

REV. W. A. CUMBIE, MODERATOR.
A. B. JERNIGAN, Clerk.

ORDAINED MINISTERS.

W. A. Cumbie,	J. A. Huggins,
Joseph Hinson,	M. Osburn,
A. B. Riddle,	W. H. Webb,
W. Allen,	J. F. Register.

STATISTICS OF GENEVA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, 1891.

CHURCHES	PASTORS.	PASTORS' POST-OFFICE.	CLERKS.	CLERKS' POST-OFFICE.	Baptized.	Received by Letter.	Restored.	Dismissed by Letter	Excluded.	Deaths.	Total Membership.	Total last Asso'tion	Increase.	Sabbath Meetings.
Adoniram	G. J. Canant			Devonia, Ala.	3	2	..	6	6	...	27	..	..	...
Elbethel	G. W. Bullard				4	3	5	2	7	..	38	33	5	.
Friendship	J. F. Register	Marl, Ala	T. W. Capps	Geneva, Ala	9	7	2	1	..	..	78	60	18	3
Geneva		Geneva, Ala	W. W. Barnett	Geneva, Ala	6	4	..	4	..	1	72	66	6	.
Limestone	A. B. Riddle	Holmes, Fla.	Francis Alford	Limestone, Fla.	3	...	..	...	1	..	37	..	..	.
New Hope	W. Allen Cumbie	Ponce de Leon, Fla.	J. C. Owens	Holmes, Fla.	11	....	..	....	1	..	36	..	...	1
New Home	H. S. Nichols	Coffee Springs, Ala.	E. P. Johnson	Marl, Ala	13	....	..	....	..	..	13	..	...	2
New Prospect	A. B. Riddle	Holmes, Fla.	W. D. Padgett	Union, Fla.	3	....	..	....	..	...	18	..	..	.
New Teman	——Johnson	.....	J. S. Pumphrey	Warwick, Ala.	..	1	1	11	5	..	46	62	..	...
Pleasant Hill	G. J Canant		A. J. McCormick	Dundee, Ala.	5	9	...	2	...	1	66	55	11	4
Pilgrim's Rest	W. A. Cumbie	Wicksburg, Ala.	E. S. Cumbie	Wicksburg, Ala.	1	5	..	1	6	1	61	64	..	2
Pleasant Grove	A. B. Riddle	Holmes, Fla	W. H. Grubbs	Eunola, Ala.	2	....	...	....	..	..	43	50	..	...
Sandy Creek					..	....	..	....	..	..	..	..	..	..
Shiloh	W. A Cumbie	Wicksburg, Ala.	S. A. Outlaw	Highfalls, Ala.	4	6	..	1	1	1	40	33	7	1
Spring Creek	Thomas Crutchfield	Graceville, Fla.	M A. Crutchfield.	Geneva, Ala.	..	....	..	....	..	..	22	22	.	3

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